

**Waste Reduction Goal Task Force
BRIEFING PAPER
for
Disaster Debris Management**

Background:

Information on this subject is limited and the State has little data on this subject. Recent history with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita show that a plan for handling large amounts of debris during a major disaster event can overwhelm even the best infrastructures.

Tennessee has several potential disaster areas like earthquake zones and radiological impact areas. In addition to these, the state has many annual tornado and flood related events requiring massive mobilization and management by local government resources.

The Need for a Debris Management Plan

- Proper planning for a natural disaster can almost certainly reduce costs for staffing and equipment.
- Planning can help a community identify collection, recycling and disposal options for debris prior to the event.
- Debris left after a flood, tornado, earthquake, etc. can create its own set of public health and safety issues if not managed properly.
- Identify staging and segregation points for waste streams.

Categories of Debris

	Buildings	Sediment	Green Waste	Personal Property	Ash
Hurricanes	X	X	X	X	
Earthquakes	X	X	X	X	X
Tornados	X		X	X	
Floods	X	X	X	X	
Fires	X			X	X

Issues:

To be determined by Task Force

Focus Questions:

1. Should disaster debris be required to go to Class I or Class III landfills in the event of a major event?
2. Should disaster debris be counted against a local government in the attainment of any solid waste or waste reduction goal?
3. How should disaster debris be handled as it pertains to the region's goal?
The statewide goal?